



AYSO EXPO 2025 Workshop Descriptions

Not all workshops will be offered at all meetings. Please check your Section agenda. All workshops are 1-hour and 15 minutes, unless otherwise noted.

Where stated “AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor” or “Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session” refers to special situations where there is new course material, SME requirements, or courses presented by partners/sponsors. The office and/or Council members will work with the Section instructor to review the course and delivery.

Coaching and Player Programs

11v11 Strategy: Coaching the Modern Defender

No other position has changed more in recent years than that of the defender. From playing out of the back to the role of the wingback, this workshop brings the demands of defenders in the modern game to the forefront. Attendees should preferably have the Intermediate Coach Certification.

4v4 Training for 6U & 8U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 4v4 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

7v7 Training for 10U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 7v7 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

9v9 Training for 12U

Program guidelines and coaching-related information for coaches playing in the 9v9 environment. Includes age-appropriate methodology and activities.

Age-Appropriate Training: Environments and Expectations

Children learn in ways that differ from adults, especially when learning involves both intellectual and physical activity. This session focuses on creating a healthy and stimulating learning and training environment to meet the needs of the children. Fun and excellence, responsibility and freedom, worth and recognition, giving and receiving are all addressed as we look at optimal environments for youth development.

Alternative Play Models – “Just What the Dr. Ordered?”

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Has the game become too mechanistic? Too organized? Too structured? And at the expense of the players? This session presents a foundation and suggestions for a more organic playing environment. For all volunteers who are interested in the “big picture” of youth soccer. Are we adding players? Improving their talents or genuinely improving the game in the USA? Is there an alternative? Let’s discuss!



New! Annual Coach Update

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

From updates to the National Coaching Program to valuable resources and protocols, this workshop includes updates from the AYSO coaching world, partners (and beyond). A must for all AYSO coaches.

Attacking Technically and Tactically

This session will expose any coach to the theory of possession, from the standpoint of clean first touch, receiving the ball away from pressure, and what that means. We will introduce them to the phases of play dependent on thirds of the field from goal to goal (build up from the back with using goalkeeper, moving through midfield looking for final pass through, and attacking the goal) that will help them understand how to use first touch and receiving away from pressure to attack properly.

AYSO Competitive Programs

An overview of EXTRA, Alliance and United and how we maximize the experience for our players, volunteers and families while stepping into the “competitive cauldron” of club soccer.

AYSO Continuing Coach Education – Destination...or Journey.

Introduction to the importance of a structured mentoring program and how to implement it in your Region.

AYSO Goalkeeping 1 – CERTIFICATION (requires 2 time slots)

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

For 10U and 12U coaches. Certification class that provides an introduction to the practical and theoretical aspects of training 10U and 12U goalkeepers. The class will cover the three principles of being a successful goalkeeper: positional play, handling, and distribution. The class will also focus on the build-out line for 10U goalkeepers, integrating the goalkeeper into your weekly practice, and providing structure to your pre- game warm up.

AYSO Playground Soccer – Field Demonstration

An EXPO favorite, the ‘live’ field demonstration of a typical AYSO Playground Soccer session. Complete with three-year-olds and their moms, dads, or grandparents. We’ll run through best practices learned, exciting new games (what do you do with that parachute?), and even introduce some new fun and exciting sessions. You’ll walk away pumped for the upcoming season!

Note: Workshop requires field space (indoor or out); at least 6-8 three-year-olds with their guardian; a Playground equipment pack and a certified Playground Program Leader.

AYSO Playground Soccer and Schoolyard Soccer Program Leader – CERTIFICATION

A certification class for AYSO Playground and Schoolyard Program Leaders. We will discuss what the AYSO Playground, AYSO Playtime and AYSO Schoolyard programs are; who should be the lead volunteer; how the programs are run; and why the programs are so important to AYSO.

AYSO Playground Soccer 101 – Classroom Introduction

Playground Soccer, the exciting program for introducing three-year-old children and their parents to the wonderful world of AYSO. Learn about the importance of fundamental motor skill development, the integration of prop-based activities and how this program can boost your entire Region.



AYSO Adult Soccer 2.0

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

How can hosting an Adult Soccer program benefit your Region? Learn how easy it is to give your parents and volunteers the opportunity to play soccer in a safe, fair, fun, and family-friendly environment. Currently hosting Friday friendlies? Support the youth program and formalize an insured adult program

Coach Administrator Training – CERTIFICATION

Arguably one of AYSO's most important roles, this session is a necessity for all Regional Coach Administrators to learn and enjoy their duties and responsibilities. Topics include an overview of the AYSO National Coaching Program, the importance of our accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation for Coaching Education (NCACE), implementation of US Soccer Player Development Initiatives, how to manage coaching courses, managing your coaching budget, working with the Region Board to create an environment that supports coach and player development, the Stewards of the Game format, the importance of a coaching calendar, and much, much more! Experienced coach administrators are encouraged to attend and to add their experience to the discussions.

Coaching Female Players

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Building upon our commitment to further support women coaches and athletes, this workshop identifies fundamental differences, methodology, and approaches to coaching, supporting and developing female players in AYSO.

Effective Session Planning and Implementation

Become a better coach now! Coaches will learn how to plan and conduct a successful training session. This includes efficient time management, what a complete training session should look like and how to develop and progress the session to fit the needs of both the individuals and the entire team.

New! Favorite Drills I Learned in Elementary School

From tag to capture the flag, most of the drills we will ever need as coaches, derived from schoolyard games. Learn how to identify, adapt, and modify drills based on simple games to fit the needs of all teams. There's a reason these games are timeless...they are FUN!

Foundations of Futsal 1 – CERTIFICATION

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Certification class providing a foundation and overview of Futsal, US Soccer's official indoor soccer format. Learn about origins, culture, rules, coaching methodology and how to start a futsal program in your Region.

Foundations of Futsal 2 – CERTIFICATION

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Part 2 of 2 Certification class that focuses on the specific techniques and skills required to coach Futsal. The workshop will introduce training plans to help better support the development of future players and look at key areas relating to the Futsal Laws of the Game. Prerequisite: Foundations of Futsal part 1.

Get to Know Their Mindset

To really develop the player, you must get to know the person. How well do you know your players? This workshop introduces growth and fixed mindsets as well as the traits and points for discussion as they relate to players reaching their potential. Based on the research by Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck.



Instructor Overview for 2023 Intermediate Coach Instructor and Advanced Coach Instructor Courses

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Instructor insight into the newly designed courses which split the prior Advanced Coach Instructor Course into two separate courses: Intermediate Coach Instructor and Advanced Coach Instructor. A must for all Advanced Coach Instructors. This is not a certification class.

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Advanced Course

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

An overview of the new Advanced Course including pre-course online content, classroom content, field content, and grading. This is not a certification class.

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Intermediate Course

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

A more detailed look into teaching the new Intermediate Course including pre-course online content, classroom content, field content and grading. NOT a certification class.

Match Analysis using Principles of Play and the 5 W's

Learn how to easily read the game and transfer your match observations into clear training objectives through functional use of the principles of play and the "5Ws." For 12U coaches and up.

New! One Team, One Goal!

What sets AYSO apart from other soccer organizations is the fun, family environment we create together. This environment thrives only when coaches, referees, parents, and administrators all work together in unity. However, sideline behavior is often not representative of our values or philosophy. Therefore, we must collaborate, discuss, and agree on positive solutions to which we can all contribute. Engage in this discussion and help highlight AYSO as the industry-leading sideline!

Periodization 101

Insight into the game's current "hot topic" and what it means to the AYSO coach. A summary of periodization elements dripped throughout the AYSO coaching program; insight to current global trends; and some practical applications for everyday use. For 12U coaches and up.

New! Play. Practice. Play. Easy as 1. 2. 3.

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Gain insight into this grassroots-developed methodology designed around a player-centered approach to coaching. This training session structure supports young players to experience the game and game-like situations as much as possible and is sure to maximize fun and learning.

Program Overview for Kickstart Soccer: the combined Playground/Schoolyard Option

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

A programmatic overview of the newly designed program which combines Playground and Schoolyard into one easy innovative and to launch program. Includes Fundamental Motor Skill development, Game-like Activities and Social and Emotional Learning skills. Each session progresses into 3v3 games.



Social and Emotional Learning – “The Missing Link”

Want to really make a difference with your sessions? Maximize your time with your players? Create holistic playing environments and learn to teach social and emotional lessons making AYSO the most holistic youth sports program in the US. For All forward- thinking coaches who want to maximize their own development while truly enriching their players’ lives.

Tactical Formations and Systems of Play 11 v 11

Different tactical formations and how to use them in a match. In this session, Systems of Play are broken down into tactical areas explaining, for example, when to defensively use a flat back four versus a diamond formation, and the best tactical formation to counter with based on what system your opponent is using. This would highlight why it might be time to switch formations in the middle of the match. This session will also explain the difference between a 3-line system and a 4-band formation.

New! Cedar Sinai - Kerlan-Jobe presents Female Athletes: ACL Injuries and Beyond

CSKJ representative or AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor (may be virtual).

Injuries to young female athletes are on the rise in the U.S. The world-renowned Kerlan-Jobe Fellowship doctors, trained in orthopedic sports medicine, address some of the most common injuries to female youth soccer athletes, how to reduce them with a practical prevention plan, and the role you can play to advocate for their health and safety on the pitch.

United Soccer Coaches Essential Principles of Effective Youth Coaching

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

An interactive workshop that introduces six key principles of effective youth coaching. Through discussion, first-time and novice coaches will be introduced to helpful ideas to make a training session more purposeful and enjoyable for coach and player alike. Each principle will be explained using training games that can immediately be applied at the coach’s next session.

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport ACCELERATE CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

USC-MHS representative

The workshop aims to support positive mental health in your team, Region, Area or Section by identifying risk and protective factors and aligning mental health policies with a validated model of a mentally healthy environment. It tailors activities, behaviors, and policies to the specific needs of your community to develop an effective action plan.

US Center for Mental Health and Sport ACT CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

USC-MHS representative

Learn the signs and symptoms of a mental health challenge and/or crisis, how to de-escalate a situation to avoid harm to oneself or others, and what pathways are available for additional professional support. Certifications include a segment on mental health resources that can be found in your local Region.

US Soccer Foundation presents Coach-Mentor CERTIFICATION (2 hours)

US Soccer Foundation representative.

Evidence-based practices for creating an inclusive team environment where every youth feels welcome and supported. A sports-based mentoring framework designed to instill mentorship in coaching pedagogy. A step-by-step approach to create lasting, positive connections, and to positively impact the physical, social, and emotional health of the youth we serve.



Women Coach Recruitment and Retention – “You Can Be it if You Can See it”

From recruitment to developing and retention, this workshop aims to reenergize our commitment to encouraging and supporting women coaches at all levels of AYSO.

AYSO Development

Introducing AYSO Play!

AYSO PLAY! Team Members will be on hand at each Expo to deliver this workshop.

Come learn about AYSO’s newest initiative, AYSO PLAY! designed to bring more soccer to more kids in more communities. Hear about how we’re expanding AYSO’s footprint nationally, learn how you can help support this initiative and how you can use the principles of AYSO PLAY! to spark growth in your player numbers while enhancing the world-class soccer training you’re already providing through your program.

AYSO + SOCi: Amplify your Search, Listings, and Social Media Efforts

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Your online presence is one of the most important assets in ensuring your Region has a strong and vibrant image in your community. Managing your entire digital footprint can be a daunting and time-consuming task but it’s crucial to making sure families looking to sign kids up for soccer can easily find you...which is where SOCi comes in! SOCi is an industry leader in local marketing services and as an AYSO Region, it is available to you at no cost. Come learn how to take advantage of this powerful and time-saving platform.

AYSO + MOJO: The Premium Mobile App with White-Glove Onboarding

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Meet MOJO – the mobile app with customized features for AYSO. It handles all your necessary team communication needs but does so much more. With MOJO, your coaches have access to AYSO session plans that they can build and customize plus scheduling and schedule change management right from the app. Parents can customize their player’s profile, track progress, keep up on all team announcements and offer real-time feedback. Best of all? MOJO will do all the setup work for you at no cost. Send your team rosters, training and game schedules to MOJO and MOJO will configure it all for you so your volunteers and families can start using the tools with zero setup time!

EPIC – Everyone Plays In our Communities

EPIC Volunteer Training (2½ hours) – CERTIFICATION

This course provides the training needed for all coaches, referees, administrators and buddies who volunteer with your EPIC division.

EPIC Program Administrator Training (2½ hours) – CERTIFICATION

Welcome to EPIC! This course covers all aspects of the EPIC program from the founding principles of the program, marketing, sponsorships, volunteer recruiting/training and the care and development of players and Buddies.



Officiating

Advantage - When and Where?

Designed for the more experienced referee, this workshop reviews the proper use of advantage and how to signal it properly in different situations. Using scenario training, this workshop provides guidance to help the referee decide when to apply advantage based on the age and skills of the players, the location on the field, the nature of the match and other relevant factors.

New! Annual Referee Update

Attendance is essential for all AYSO volunteers in the referee program including referees, instructors, assessors, mentors, schedulers/assignors, and administrators. This workshop covers the latest changes in the Laws of the Game, review of program changes, points of emphasis for 2024/25.

Avoiding Trouble

Techniques, skills, and processes needed to successfully manage younger players' games. Designed for the less experienced referee, this workshop presents key topics that every referee should know to be a good referee.

Be a Great Mentor

Learn, understand, and effectively use the mentoring process. Interactive session to present, discuss and use the Elements of Mentoring which referee leaders can use to influence the referees' ability to learn, retain information and modify behavior.

Building a Successful Youth Referee Program

With an emphasis on the development and retention of youth referees, this workshop explores techniques for establishing and running a successful youth referee program. Intended primarily for referee administrators, this workshop explores the who, what, when, where, why and how of a youth referee program. Participants share their experiences and ideas, learning best practices that are known to make such programs effective. This workshop will also provide the opportunity to share Section, Area, and Region experiences in growing and retaining youth referees, thereby uncovering best practices and new ideas from which all participants may benefit. (This integrates the round table workshop to make this session more effective).

New! Building Referee Confidence

Ever feel like you're in a bit over your head? We all do. That's part of the learning process. As an official you will be presented with a series of life lessons, disguised as game time decisions. If we learn to make better decisions, our confidence will grow - both on and off the pitch. This class will share some techniques to help build your confidence as a referee. We'll also show referee administrators and referee mentors how they can support their referees to help grow the number of volunteers and improve retention rates as referees progress through the ranks to higher levels of competition.

Establishing a Mentoring Program

The workshop is designed for Referee Administrators as well as Intermediate and above referees with at least two years of refereeing experience interested in developing and maintaining a successful mentoring program in the Region. The workshop helps the referee program administrators understand the importance of mentoring and how to set up and run a Region Mentoring Program. It also defines the attributes of a quality mentor. The workshop describes ways that Areas and Sections can enhance the Region Mentoring Programs or help when Regions lack the staff to run such a program.



Fouls and Misconduct Review for 12U Games & Below

Workshop will provide a review of Law 12 with an emphasis on the Direct and Indirect Free Kicks; pictures and video clips to help the participants better understand basic fouls that are common in 12U games and below to facilitate a discussion/decision based on the video clips presented.

Fouls and Misconduct Review for 14U Games & Above

This workshop will provide a review of Law 12; pictures and video clips to help the participants better understand basic fouls that are common in 14U games and above to facilitate a discussion based on the video clips presented. The correct decision for each video clip presented will be provided along with tips and recommendations on how to manage fouls and misconduct.

Foundations of Officiating Futsal

Introductory class providing a foundation and overview of Futsal officiating, US Soccer's official indoor soccer format.

Free Kicks & Restarts

Restarts matter. Statistics indicate that more than 60% of goals result from restarts in the attacking third of the field. This session focuses on how to manage free kicks and other restarts and provides recommended (and alternate) referee positioning. It also addresses the role of the referee team in directing restarts.

Game Reports

This is a workshop to teach participants the components of a game report and how to prepare one. It will include an interactive exercise where every participant will complete a report with a focus on preparing correct game reports. Administrators have a consistent challenge with reports that are submitted before they are reviewed and correctly completed. 90% of referees around the world don't like to do paperwork so this workshop provides a creative, fun way to get participants to practice and learn how to develop good reports.

How to Be a Lead Referee Instructor

This workshop shows why Lead Instructors are important in the AYSO Referee Instructor program and discusses the administrative and leadership roles that Lead Instructors play in AYSO courses and other instructional activities.

Introduction to Referee Communication Systems

Introducing the expectations and appropriate use of electronic communication (comms) systems to augment the standard IFAB signals; not to replace them. Discuss best practices for what and when to communicate over comms.

Newer Ideas in Referee Positioning

Techniques, skills, and processes needed to successfully manage older players' games. Designed for the more experienced referee; this workshop presents key topics that every referee should know well in order to be a good referee.

Officiating as a Team

Refereeing as a team begins with the pregame conference and goes on to include clear delegation and execution of duties, proper positioning by the referee and assistant referees, eye contact between officials, and signaling per the USSF Guide to Procedures. More experienced referees will learn skills to enhance their performance and communication both as the referee and as an AR. The workshop emphasizes the communication subtlety required when refereeing older players. Attendees should bring assistant referee flags.



Offside Review

A review of Law 11: Offside basic components. This is a simple Law per the text content but very challenging because of the physical and mental requirements. In this session, we'll review the basic concepts; provide tips and advice to help the assistant referees and referees evaluate offside incidents; and review diagrams and video clips with simpler offside scenarios.

New! Offside – Don't Blink, You'll Miss It!

This workshop is great for referees who believe they have a sound understanding of Law 11. Dig into criteria for becoming involved in active play to explore some of the dynamic aspects of offside. Participants will view and discuss clips from AYSO and professional matches so they can exercise their application of the criteria.

New! Pregame – Oops, What Did We Forget?

Referee teams conduct a pregame meeting before each match. But how should this differ in different situations? What if you are an established, experienced team who have worked together before? What if one (or all!) of you are relatively inexperienced? What if it's a 10U match? A 19U match? The first match of the season? A tournament final? In this workshop, we will use scenarios to explore how referees might effectively carry out their pregame interactions under these conditions, and more.

Proactive Refereeing - Reading the Game and Taking Action

This workshop focuses on techniques that help referees anticipate game-control challenges they will face when refereeing older players. Referees learn that anticipation comes from "reading the game" – that is, understanding specific keys to the players' objectives revealed in their actions and behaviors. Referees also learn techniques to adjust the balance of flow and control in response to their reading of the game, especially in high-risk situations.

Recruiting & Retaining Referees

The workshop focuses on methods/techniques for recruiting and retaining referees, an essential but challenging aspect of our soccer program. This workshop covers proven approaches to recruiting, developing, and retaining referees across the country, and mentoring is emphasized as a retention and development technique. Attendees exchange ideas and effective methodologies and best practices in recruiting and retaining referees. Workshop will also provide the opportunity to share Section, Area and Region experiences in recruiting and retaining referees, thereby uncovering best practices and new ideas from which all participants may benefit. (This integrates the round table workshop to make this session more effective.)

Refereeing is Thinking

Intended for experienced referees, this workshop emphasizes the importance of avoiding "book refereeing" in older players' games. It uses scenario training to explore real game situations in which rigid application of the Laws is not the best remedy. Referees learn practical techniques and specific referee behaviors – rooted in the Spirit of the Laws but mostly unwritten – to maximize player enjoyment through flexible game management.

Refereeing with Fewer Than Three

The workshop addresses the all-too-common problem of officiating a game with fewer than three trained referees. The mechanics of the diagonal system of control (DSC) are reviewed with an emphasis on the responsibilities of the three officials. The workshop focuses on how to redistribute those responsibilities when there are fewer than three trained officials. Compromises and variations are examined to deal with the loss of field coverage. The workshop emphasizes the application of these techniques in younger division matches, but it also addresses referee positioning for older players' matches when fewer than three officials are available.



Regional Referee Administrator – CERTIFICATION

We will review the responsibilities of a Regional Referee Administrator focusing on the activities that are key to managing a Regional Referee Program. Topics include Referee: Budget, Recruitment and Retention. Resources, methods, and recommendations will be shared with the students to help you be successful in carrying out the RRA duties.

Stopping Referee Abuse

Adapted with permission from presentations by Matthew Buckman, Director of Referee Development for the California-North Referee Association of USSF and National Assignor for U.S. Soccer. This workshop covers strategies and techniques for identifying and addressing abuse, what to say and when to say it, and promoting zero tolerance for referee abuse.

Women’s Referee and Coach Forum

Experienced women referees and coaches answer questions and lead discussions on the challenges and opportunities for women in this male-dominated arena. Attendees at this session will discuss their secrets of success by sharing questions, suggestions, and ideas for dealing with difficult situations in order to feel more comfortable on the field. All are welcome.

New! Why Can’t We Be Friends?

This workshop explores ideas for promoting greater cooperation between coaches and referees starting with Stewards of the Game. Discuss the AYSO Team’s expectations and steps for building understanding, common ground and ultimately, improved cooperation.

You Make the Call I You make the call in this workshop that presents scenarios that may occur in 12U games and below. Newer and younger division referees will challenge themselves and each other to judiciously apply the finer points of the Laws, decide whether to whistle or not. You’re the referee on your game; be prepared for it by sharpening your decision-making skills in this dynamic workshop.

You Make the Call II

You make the call in this workshop that presents difficult scenarios that may occur in older players’ games. Experienced referees will challenge themselves and each other to judiciously apply the finer points of the Laws, decide whether to whistle or apply advantage, determine how to handle gamesmanship and misconduct and more. You’re the referee on your game; be prepared for it by sharpening your decision-making skills in this dynamic workshop.



Regional Administration & Operations

It is highly recommended that all required board member job certification courses be taken online prior to taking the job specific roundtables and Q&As listed below. Roundtables will be focused on sharing information, best practices, scenarios, and Q & A's.

Updated! Advanced Social Media

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Understand the basics but want to know how to implement multi-channel and multi- platform campaign strategy? In this session, we will learn how to advertise on social media, strategize your content and the best platforms to use through the building of a campaign. We will also further explore how social media can play a pivotal role in your Region's branding.

New! Annual Management Update

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Updates to the National Management Program including any Bylaw, Rules & Regulations, Policy, and Program updates.

Auditor – CERTIFICATION

This workshop provides basic training for Fiduciaries and the Section and Area Auditor to independently ensure fiscal transparency and integrity at all levels of AYSO. Learn how to spot a "red flag" and what to do if improprieties are uncovered. Learn about AYSO's audit procedures and about AYSO's audit checklist. No financial background is required for this course. It's a good way to get started with tools needed for an independent review of the Section, Area, or Region finances.

Auditor Guided Q&A

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees, especially Area/Section Auditors, Executive Members, and Treasurers, to discuss best practices after taking the Auditor Certification Course. Do you know how to get access to the data you need for doing an audit? Do you know where to find and how to use the Auditor Checklist? Answers to these and other questions from the attendees will be discussed.

Avoiding Landmines

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Presented by AYSO Office staff, this course will guide Regional Board Members through the minefield of policies, procedures, and guidelines to ensure compliance with AYSO, U.S. Soccer and state legislation, focusing on participant safety and protecting players, volunteers, the Region and the Organization. Learn about *the rules and tools* available, and when and how to effectively use them.

Best Practices for Sponsorship and Fundraising

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Sponsorships and fundraising can seem like a lot of work, but the truth is there are local businesses and community groups that would love to support what you do if only they were asked! In this session, we will discuss how you can target local sponsors for your Region, how to think about delivering value in exchange for their support, and how you can benefit from national sponsors on a local level. We will also discuss fundraising best practices and examples of how to build a campaign.



Updated! Creating an AYSO Culture of Volunteerism

At the heart of AYSO is the volunteers who hold the Vision of providing world class youth soccer programs that enrich children’s lives, in their hearts, devoting countless hours to help run an AYSO program in their communities. This workshop will explore opportunities to encourage volunteer participation and engagement.

Updated! Developing a Regional Calendar

Developing a Regional calendar is really more about the process that helps Regions prioritize, organize and stay on track to meet all the requirements for providing a world class youth soccer program. The workshop will walk through the steps of creating and personalizing calendar events, including various online tools to help automate reminders and progress tracking, while improving communications, volunteer transitions and creating an evergreen timeline of the Region.

Dispute Resolution

This course is designed for Region and Area Board Members and will cover recommended approaches for dealing with difficult people, conflict and resolving difficult issues. It will help volunteers work through challenging situations before they escalate to the point of needing Due Process.

Updated! Dispute Resolution Review

After taking the Dispute Resolution Course, this workshop allows attendees to review scenarios dealing with difficult people and common difficult situations which if left to smolder, can turn “sunny Saturdays” into “manic Mondays.” Attendees practice recognizing potentially explosive situations and how to deal with them before they flare up.

Division Coordinator – CERTIFICATION

The Division Coordinator is a vital member of the leadership team in any size Region. All the basics of the Division Coordinator position are covered including roles and responsibilities and the importance of functioning as an intermediary between the Region Board, Coaches, Referees, and parents. See how a Division Coordinator can be effective in different scenarios and learn how to have a real impact on the success of the Region.

Due Process

This workshop provides more detail and information for Regional Boards and Disciplinary Review Panel members when handling difficult situations with volunteers. Learn the process to use when limiting, suspending, or removing/terminating a volunteer (Non- Executive Member) from their participation in AYSO. This workshop will review the many tools available to properly deal with serious personnel problems and examine the procedures when offering the volunteer due process, the right to be heard and appeal protection.

Updated! Due Process Review

After taking the Due Process Course, attendees are afforded an opportunity to discuss real-life scenarios from the perspective of a Disciplinary Review Panel and apply the procedures to use when limiting, suspending, or removing/terminating a volunteer (Non-Executive Member) from their participation in AYSO.

Financial Transparency

In the new world of digital banking options there are new ways to ensure Regions are being fiscally responsible and financially transparent. Attendees will learn best practices to remain transparent with the new AYSO banking tools, understand the red flags that come with digital banking, and how to stay fiscally responsible. While this course is for Regional Commissioners, Area Directors, Treasurers and Auditors, all board members are welcome. This course will not provide hands-on training in our financial management systems.



First Time EXPO Attendee Orientation

Is this your first EXPO? Do you have questions about AYSO basics? This course is designed for the new volunteer or first-time attendee to learn more about AYSO's structure and foundation. It will also help any first-timers navigate the discipline tracks, courses, and events available to EXPO attendees.

Governance Made Easier

Every Region is governed by Standard Policies & Protocols. What do they say? What things are Region "must dos" and what things can be modified to meet local needs or preferences? This document affects the daily operation of a Region and even determines who is eligible to vote on the Regional Board. The course is for Area/Regional Board Members and for Section/Area Directors as reviewers.

Guide to Better Communications

Effective communication is key to the success of a Region, fostering good will and happy participants. Communication issues can create some of the biggest problems a Region can face. This course offers over 20 strategies for better written, electronic, verbal, and non-verbal communication, including what's best in different situations--and how to avoid missteps. This training is important for all Regional Board members, especially Regional Commissioners, Coach and Referee Administrators, CVPAs, Safety Directors, and Registrars.

Leadership Forum with NBOD Members and Section Directors (Required)

An open session on National Updates to discuss AYSO with senior leadership.

Planning Effective Board Meetings

This session discusses the things that contribute to more effective meetings and the things that frustrate people most about ineffective meetings. Attendees will discuss ideas for having more constructive meetings and suggestions for increasing interest and attendance. The session focuses on length of time, agenda creation, who should be there, and what should be reported on a monthly basis. Take away 10 ideas to make Board Members look forward to each meeting. Recommended for SDs, ADs, RCs and Board Members at all levels.

Regional Board Member Training – CERTIFICATION

Calling all volunteers; this workshop is for you! This course provides all board members with a general understanding of their role in the administration of the Regional Board and where to find information about their specific role. Learn about AYSO's Standard Regional Policies and Protocols and using AYSO's Six Philosophies. Volunteers will understand the common responsibilities all volunteers share in the areas of Kid Zone, budgeting, time management, communications, and recruitment necessary to make a Region successful.

Registrar – CERTIFICATION

The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that the Region registers all players and volunteers participating in the Region, including opening the proper player/volunteer registration programs in AYSO's approved registration system. Registrars are asked to provide status updates to the Regional Commissioner, Region Coach and Referee Administrators, Division Coordinators, Treasurer and all board members, and manage player wait lists so that any player that wants to play, can play as stated in AYSO's Open Registration philosophy.

Registrar Guided Q&As

This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Online Registrar Certification Course. Did you volunteer for this job but now feel overwhelmed? Are you confused or need help getting started, or worried about what to do next? Ever wonder why AYSO does things in certain ways? The answers will come from attendees through a guided discussion. All Region Board Members will benefit from attending. Please note that issues with Sports Connect and other systems won't be addressed.



Registration Events in the Digital Age

This workshop is not just for Registrars! E-signature technology has simplified the registration process and moved it online, saving time for both the participants and the Region staff. But is there still value in having in-person, face-to-face events? What are the benefits of personal interaction with your potential volunteers and players? Come and explore the pros and cons with your fellow Registrars and other Board Members.

Safety Director – CERTIFICATION

The Safety Director plays a critical role in the risk management of the Region while helping to fulfill the promise for a safe, fair, fun, family-friendly environment or “safe haven” for kids to enjoy the game of soccer. Learn about the key responsibilities, Incident Reporting, Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness, the importance of Soccer Accident Insurance and safety planning to our participants.

Updated! Safety First: Playing It Safe!

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

This interactive workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss best practices for building a Region’s Safety Plan and fulfilling the role of the Safety Director, ensuring the safety and risk management of the Region’s soccer program. This is an opportunity to create the “safe, fair, fun environment” or safe haven that all AYSO participants can enjoy.

Updated! Social and Digital Marketing

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Social and digital marketing is a vital part of promoting your Region, but how do you go about it? How do you choose the right mix? Where can you go to find assets and resources to help you? This session is for those who’ve been involved in marketing and promoting your Region but who want to know how to take it to the next level with multi-channel and multi-platform marketing and communications. In this session, we will discuss the pros and cons of various platforms, some often-overlooked foundational best practices, and work through the important process of designing a communications plan that shines a spotlight on your program for all your community to see.

New! Sports Connect Website Workshop

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Create the Region website parents and families dream of seeing! Attendees will explore the types of content each Region should include on their Sports Connect website, how powerful and useful their website can be, and how to use the platform features to customize pages. Attendees will receive a crash course in enhancing their bulk email templates. The volunteers that will benefit most from this workshop are those with access rights to edit their Sports Connect web pages. Bring a laptop to follow along and improve your Region website during this workshop.

Treasurer – CERTIFICATION

Treasurers manage the accounting of Region revenue, expenses and assets according to AYSO’s Finance Policy and authorized financial systems, general accounting practices, and internal controls procedures to protect AYSO’s financial viability and non-profit status. The course covers the who, what, when and where of financial transparency and non-profit requirements.

Treasurer Guided Q&As

This roundtable style workshop is a guided question and answer session to provide an opportunity to discuss and discover best practices after taking the Online Treasurer Certification Course. This workshop allows any volunteer to give their input and share ideas and to explore best practices to ensure financial responsibility within your Region, Area, or Section Boards.



What is a Budget Really For?

Ever wondered what the budget is really for or what its purpose is? Budgeting is a useful tool to assist Regions in setting goals, ensuring expenditures are funded, preparing for emergencies, and providing transparency to the Region. This session features hands-on experience using each attendee's own Regional budget to see why a budget is an important tool. Attendees will look at each section of the budget to help determine spending habits and determine if fees are appropriate to keep the Region financially sound. Please be sure to bring a copy of your Region's budget to get the most out of this experience!

Working with Field Owners

Regions are challenged with a variety of field owners, requirements, and usage agreements. This course will help Regional Commissioners, and their boards better understand the challenges they face when working with City, School, and Private owners when it comes to obtaining and using fields. Attendees will learn what to do to secure field permits, negotiate field fees, and watch for red flags that could put field use in jeopardy. Come learn how to secure your fields and protect your Region.

Safe Haven

Child & Volunteer Protection Advocate – CERTIFICATION

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

The Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA) is a required board position put in place to help protect our two vital resources: the players and volunteers. This training class leads you through an understanding of the position, AYSO's Criminal History Background Check Policy, and volunteer screening protocols.

AYSO's Safe Haven Addendum

AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

Designed for Section, Area and Region board members, this workshop covers important challenges in providing a "safe haven," additional protocols for dealing with these challenges, and program updates including U.S. Soccer's requirement for SafeSport training. The workshop facilitates discussions about common issues and concerns.

Updated! AYSO's Stewards of the Game – The AYSO Team

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Learn about the role of coaches, referees, and parents in managing a safe, fair, fun, family- friendly experience on game days. Discussions of on-field collaboration, procedures for prioritizing player safety, and how to prevent on-field confrontation. Stewards serve as mentors to peers, players and parents on the importance of providing a safe haven for kids and families.

New! Kids in the Middle – The AYSO Team

Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

Facilitated discussions focus on coaches, referees, and parents all working together as the AYSO Team to support what is best for the players – a safe, fair, fun environment. Participants will develop recommendations for an AYSO Team Code to establish a universal standard of behavior for all participants and in keeping with AYSO's Vision, Mission and Philosophies.



Systems

New! Tools for Regional Commissioners (RCs)

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

This workshop is for RCs. Learn how to use the Sports Connect website to assign roles and what roles to assign volunteers. Learn how to use the Association Platform to run reports, set up your board in the security tab and the AYSO common tasks like assigning courses to volunteers and other administrative tasks. Bring your computer so can follow along.

New! Tools for Division Coordinators

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

In this workshop, a Division Coordinator or RC will learn how to use the tools available to conduct and enter division evaluation results, to form and balance teams, assign coaches and other team volunteers, schedule their division games, print rosters and schedules for teams, and more. We will work within the Sports Connect and Association platforms. Bring a laptop to follow along!

New! Tools for Verifying Volunteer Compliance

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

In this workshop a CVPA or Executive Members will learn how to use the tools available to verify that their volunteers have completed their training requirements and cleared background checks. We'll explore a Region's Sports Connect website and the Association Platform's reports. If internet access is available bring your laptop to follow along.

New! Tools for Registrars

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

The Registrar or RC will learn how to set up player registration programs, wait lists, try-out programs. We'll explore a Region's Sports Connect website and the Association Platform's reports. If internet access is available bring your laptop to follow along.

New! Tools for Treasurers/Auditors/Fiduciaries

To be facilitated by the Section Systems Support Admin

The Treasurer or Executive Member will learn how to use the AYSO financial system tools including AYSO specific terminology, processes, reviews of weekly/monthly checklists, Divvy/Bill Spend and Expenses, and best practices for preventing fraud. Bring a laptop to follow along!



Instruction

Instructor Training for 2021 I2I

This workshop presents an overview of the updated 2021 Intro to Instruction Course (I2I). It is intended to prepare current instructors to teach the new I2I. Content includes a review of the pre-course online content, classroom content, and philosophy in the new I2I. This is not a certification class.

Facilitation and the Teaching Process

Gone are the days of reading PowerPoints to engage and educate our volunteers! As our Introduction to Instruction, Education Philosophy and Instructor Profile outline, we must use researched adult learning methodology (andragogy), interactions and interventions and facilitate learning through various experiences, contexts, and situations. This workshop introduces the foundations of facilitation in the teaching process and why it works!

Instructor Certification Courses

Introduction to Instruction 2021 – 4 hours in-person with 1-hour pre-course online work (this course must be rostered prior to EXPO)

Coach Instructor 2022 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Intermediate Coach Instructor 2023 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Advanced Coach Instructor 2023 – 4 hours in-person with 4-hour pre-course online work and 2-hours post-course (Attendees must be enrolled/rostered prior to EXPO)

Referee Instructor (Results in either Regional or Intermediate Referee Instructor) - 7.5 hours

Advanced Referee Instructor – 6.5 hours

Referee Instructor Evaluator – 5.5 hours

Management Instructor 2022 – 4.5 hours

Advanced Management Instructor 2022 – 6 hours

EPIC Instructor – 3 hours



Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session or Coordinated by AYSO Office with partnership representatives or Section to assign Instructors:

COACHING AND PLAYER PROGRAMS - Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session

Alternative Play Models – “Just What the Dr. Ordered?”

New! Annual Coach Update

AYSO Adult Soccer 2.0

AYSO Goalkeeping 1 – CERTIFICATION (requires 2 time slots)

Coaching Female Players

Foundations of Futsal 1 – CERTIFICATION

Foundations of Futsal 2 – CERTIFICATION

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Intermediate Course

Instructor Overview for the AYSO Advanced Course

Instructor Overview for the 2023 Intermediate Coach Instructor and Advanced Coach Instructor Courses

United Soccer Coaches Essential Principles of Effective Youth Coaching

New! Program Overview for Kickstart Soccer: the combined Playground/Schoolyard Option

New! Cedar Sinai Kerlan-Jobe presents Female Athletes: ACL Injuries and Beyond

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport presents ACT Accelerate Certification (2 hours)

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport presents ACT Certification (2 hours)

New! US Center for Mental Health and Sport presents ACCELARATE Certification (2 hours)-

New! US Soccer Foundation presents Coach-Mentor CERTIFICATION (2 hours)-

New! Play. Practice. Play. Easy as 1. 2. 3.

DEVELOPMENT - Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session.

New! Introducing AYSO Play! AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor.

New! AYSO + SOCi: Amplify your Search, Listings, and Social Media Efforts.

New! AYSO + MOJO: The Premium Mobile App with White-Glove Onboarding.

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS - Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session

Updated! Advanced Social Media

New! Annual Management Update 2024

Auditor Guided Q&A

Avoiding Landmines - AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor

Best Practices for Sponsorship and Fundraising

Leadership Forum with NBOD Members and Section Directors (Required)

New! Safety First: Playing It Safe! – Participant Safety Council

Updated! Social and Digital Marketing

New! Sports Connect Website Workshop

SAFE HAVEN - Course Requires Pre-EXPO Instructor Review Session

CVPA – Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate

Safe Haven Addendum - AYSO Office will coordinate with Section to assign an instructor

Updated! AYSO’s Stewards of the Game – The AYSO Triangle

New! Kids in the Middle – The AYSO Triangle



SYSTEMS - Facilitated by Section System Administrators

New! Tools for Regional Commissioners (RCs)

New! Tools for Division Coordinators

New! Tools for Verifying Volunteer Compliance

New! Tools for Registrars

New! Tools for Treasurers/Auditors/Fiduciaries